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Application Serial No: 10/663,596
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: February 7, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 7, 2007. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 3. Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are pending.

Prior Art Rejections:

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are rejected as being anticipated by Wada (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0097508). Claim 3 is rejected as being unpatentable over Wada. These rejections are traversed. As the features of claim 3 are now found in claim 1, the anticipation rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants do not concede the correctness of the anticipation rejection as applied to claims 1-2 and 4-5.

Claim 1 is directed to an objective lens for focusing a light beam emitted from a light source on an information recording surface of an optical information recording medium. Claim 1 requires, among other features, that the objective lens have an upper surface of an edge and a substantially truncated-cone-shaped portion projecting from the upper surface of the edge on its surface on a side of the optical information recording medium. Claim 1 also requires that a base of the substantially truncated cone-shaped portion of the objective lens have a radius $RL2$ smaller than 1.8 mm, and a height H of the substantially truncated-cone-shaped portion satisfies height $H > 0.75 \text{ mm} + \text{necessary movement amount FD of lens} - \text{working distance WD}$. By requiring that the height of the substantially truncated-cone-shaped portion satisfy the relationship of claim 1, an objective lens that does not interfere with a cartridge and is therefore compatible with both a Blu-ray Disc and a DVD contained in a cartridge is achieved.

Wada does not teach or suggest these features. In particular, nowhere does Wada teach a height H of a substantially truncated-cone-shaped portion satisfying the height $H > 0.75 \text{ mm} + \text{necessary movement amount FD of lens} - \text{working distance WD}$, which has been recognized by the rejection.

The rejection asserts that it would be obvious to modify the objective lens in Wada in order to satisfy the height relationship required in claim 1. However, Wada is directed to an objective lens for use in an optical pickup apparatus that includes an objective lens (10) with an objective side lens (1) arranged at a light source side and an

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image side lens (2) arranged at an optical information recording side (see paragraph [0103] and Figure 1). A recessed portion (23) is provided in order to prevent burrs from being generated on a surface of the image side lens (2). Nowhere does Wada discuss configuring an objective lens to be compatible with both a Blu-ray disc and a DVD. Moreover, nowhere does Wada provide any suggestion or motivation to set the height of a substantially truncated-cone-shaped portion of objective lens (10) to satisfy the relationship of claim 1. For at least these reasons claim 1 is not suggested by Wada and should be allowed. Claims 2, 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion:


Applicants respectfully assert claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



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Respectfully submitted,

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